

REMARKS

Claims 1-45 were pending in the application prior to this amendment. Claims 1-45 stand rejected. Claims 1-10, 13-25, 33-38 and 43-45 have been amended. Claims 41 and 42 have been cancelled. Applicant requests allowance of all pending claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 13-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. “Computer readable medium” is directed to non-statutory subject matter and fails to meet a statutory category of invention.

Claims 13-24 have been amended.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-5, 10-18, 22-27, 31-39 and 41-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Babu et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,122,639 (hereinafter Babu).

Claim 1 has been amended. Applicant claims a method of determining whether to issue an alarm indicating a network intrusion responsive to receiving the node information by comparing a unique identifier included in said node information to a database. When the node information corresponds to an existing database entry, the alarm is not issued and at least a portion of the node information is automatically linked to the existing database entry. This feature avoids disrupting a technical support agent with an alarm falsely indicating a network intrusion, particularly when the node is subject to dynamic IP address assignment. *See* page 3, lines 1-3. None of the references teach at least the feature of “determining whether to issue an alarm responsive to receiving the node information by comparing a unique identifier included in said node information to a database.”

Babu discloses a change detection mechanism 30 capable of detecting changes in a network. *See* FIG. 2. The change detection mechanism 30 may generate a report 22 in log file format that conveys the meaning of the change information. *See* FIG. 2. The change detection mechanism does not determine whether to issue an alarm indicating a network intrusion responsive to receiving the node information by comparing a unique identifier included in said node information to a database.

In contrast, claim 1 includes the feature of determining whether to issue an alarm indicating a network intrusion responsive to receiving the node information by comparing a unique identifier included in said node information to a database. Thus, claim 1 should be

allowed. Claims 2-5 and 10-12 are dependent and should be allowed for at least the same reason as claim 1.

Claims 2 and 3 have been amended. For example, claim 2 includes the feature of analyzing the node information to select the unique identifier, wherein the selected unique identifier is not a network address such that a false alarm is not sent even when the node is subject to dynamic address assignment. Some of the advantages of this feature are described on page 2, lines 5-25 of the present specification. None of the references disclose this feature, and thus claim 2 should be allowed for this additional reason. Claim 3 should be allowed for at least similar reasons as claim 2.

Claim 4 has been amended. *See* FIG. 4 of the present specification. Advantages of using these different values for the unique identifier are described in the present specification pages 13-16. None of the references disclose the hierarchy of preferred unique identifiers described in claim 4, and thus claim 4 should be allowed for this additional reason.

Claim 5 has been amended and should be allowed for at least similar additional reasons as described with respect to claim 2. *See* the present specification page 2, lines 5-25. As stated previously, claims 10-12 are dependent and should be allowed for at least the same reason as claim 1.

Claims 13, 25 and 36 have been amended and should be allowed for at least similar reasons as claim 1. Claims 14-18, 22-24, 26-27, 31-35 and 37-39 are dependent and should be allowed for at least similar reasons as their respective base claims.

Claim 43 has been put into independent form. No amendments have been made to claim 43. None of the references disclose the feature of “wherein said engine is further operable to determine if a media access control (MAC) address from said node information matches a MAC address in said database, *if there is not a unique identifier in said node information.*” (emphasis added). An example of this feature is disclosed in the present specification (FIG. 4) where it shows a process for tracking entities such that when an SID or S/N are not available, the processes uses a MAC address for the determination. None of the references disclose this hierarchical process of initially attempting to rely on a unique identifier, and then using a MAC address when the unique identifier is not found. Some of the advantages of this feature are described on page 2, lines 5-25 of the present specification. Thus, claim 43 should be allowed. Claim 44 is dependent and should be allowed. Claims 41-42 have been cancelled.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 6-7, 9, 19, 21, 28, 40 and 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Babu in view of Bahl, U.S. Patent No. 7,146,718 (hereinafter Bahl).

Claims 6-7, 9, 19, 21, 28, 40 and 45 are dependent and should be allowed for at least the same reasons as discussed previously.

Claims 8, 20 and 29-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Babu and Bahl and further in view of Romohr, U.S. Patent No. 5,596,723 (hereinafter Romohr).

Claims 8, 20 and 29-30 are dependent and should be allowed for at least the same reasons as discussed previously.

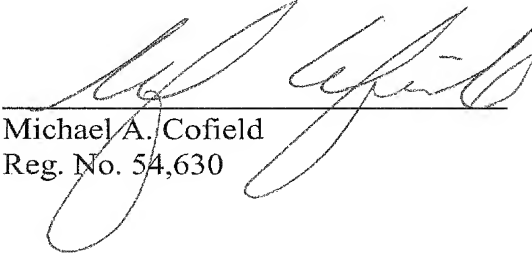
CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims is requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

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Respectfully submitted,

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